

Thursday, February 7, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: Evening
Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 956-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4137 - College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007 (Rep. Sutton-Rules):**  
The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule provides that the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor may offer at any time amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their designee, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendment en bloc. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Sutton, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **H.R. 4137 - College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007(Rep. George Miller-Education and Labor):** Debate on the bill will be managed by Education and Labor Committee Chair Rep. George Miller, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.

- Possible debate and vote on a Republican Motion to recommit the bill.
- Vote on passage of the bill.
- **Possible Consideration of H. Res. 955-Waiving a Requirement of Clause 6(a) of Rule XIII With Respect to Consideration of Certain Resolutions Reported from the Committee on Rules (Rep. Slaughter-Rules):** The rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolution reported on the legislative day of Thursday, February 7, 2008, relating to a bill to provide economic stimulus. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **Possible Consideration of the Economic Stimulus bill.**
- **Postponed Suspension Votes:**
  - 1)**H.Con.Res. 283** - Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya (Rep. Payne - Foreign Affairs)
  - 2) **H.Res. 947** - Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his time of transition and his inauguration on February 25, 2008 (Rep. Royce - Foreign Affairs)
  - 3) **H.R. 4848** - To extend for one year parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits, and for other purposes (Rep. Pallone – Energy and Commerce)

### **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

## **H.R. 4137-THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007**

*Expanding College Access, Strengthening our Future*

A college education continues to be the best path to the middle class. But more and more, high college prices and other obstacles are putting a college degree further out of reach for America's students. In addition to rising tuition, students and their families face an overly complex federal student aid application process and a student loan industry mired in conflicts of interest and corrupt lending practices.

The College Opportunity and Affordability Act will continue this Congress' year-long effort to make college more affordable and accessible. This bill would reform

our higher education system so that it operates in the best interests of students and families, while boosting our competitiveness and strengthening our future.

The legislation would:

**Encourage colleges to rein in price increases and provide consumers with helpful information**

- Ensures states maintain higher education funding and provides incentives, such as additional need-based aid, to encourage colleges to hold down price increases.
- Creates a user-friendly website to provide students and families with helpful information about college pricing when making important education decisions.
- Requires institutions to report their reasons for tuition hikes, and their plans for lowering costs.

**Restore integrity and accountability to the student loan programs**

- Requires institutions and lenders to adopt strict codes of conduct.
- Provides students with fair and full information about their borrowing options when taking out and repaying student loans, including the terms and conditions of both federal and private student loans; and promotes financial literacy and education for students and parents.
- Protects students from aggressive marketing practices by lenders.

**Simplify the federal student aid application process**

- Streamlines the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, and creates an easy-to-navigate two-page FAFSA-EZ form for low-income families.
- Provides families with extra time to plan for their college expenses.
- Encourages the Department of Education to coordinate with the Internal Revenue Service to use information that the government already has.

**Make textbook costs more manageable**

- Provides students with advance information on textbook pricing to help them plan for expenses before each semester.
- Ensures that colleges and faculty have full textbook pricing information when making purchasing decisions.

**Strengthen our workforce and our competitiveness**

- Creates programs to bolster students' interest in science, technology and critical foreign languages through collaborations with businesses and other stakeholders.
- Improves teacher training and development programs and focuses on recruiting teachers into high demand science and technology fields.
- Encourages students to enter vital public service jobs by authorizing up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness for public defenders, prosecutors, firefighters, military service members, first responders, law enforcement officers, educators, nurses, and others serving the public interest.

**Expand college access and support for low-income and minority students**

- Makes college more affordable for low-income and non-traditional students by allowing students to receive Pell Grant scholarship aid year round.

- Expands funding for graduate student programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other minority serving schools.
- Strengthens the TRIO and GEAR UP college readiness and support programs for low income and first-generation students.

#### **Increase college aid and support for veterans and military families**

- Creates a new scholarship program for active duty military personnel and family members, including children and spouses of active duty military service members or veterans.
- Establishes support centers to help veterans succeed in college and graduate.
- Ensures fairness in student aid and housing aid for veterans to make it easier for them to go to college while also fulfilling their military service duties.

#### **Ensure equal college opportunities for students with disabilities**

- Establishes a national center to provide support services and best practices for colleges, students with disabilities, and their families.
- Helps colleges recruit, retain, and graduate students with disabilities and improves education materials and facilities.
- Makes college more affordable for students with intellectual disabilities by allowing them to become eligible for Pell Grant scholarships and other need-based aid.

#### **Boost campus safety and disaster readiness plans**

- Helps all colleges develop and implement state of the art emergency systems and campus safety plans, and requires the Department of Education to develop and maintain a disaster plan in preparation for emergencies.
- Creates a National Center for Campus Safety at the Department of Justice to work in collaboration with the COPS Program.
- Establishes a disaster relief loan program to help schools recover and rebuild in the event of a disaster.

#### **Anticipated Amendment to H.R. 4137**

**1. Miller, George (CA):** The Manager's amendment makes technical changes to the bill, as well as changes to the provisions on college costs to a more consumer friendly approach, while keeping the focus on accountability; a revision to the definition of the state funds that count toward meeting the State Maintenance of Effort requirement; a revised technical amendment to Pell grant funding; modifications to the Cohort Default Rate provisions to provide for a transition period before the new sanctions are imposed and provide for targeted technical assistance to schools in danger of losing their federal student aid as a result of high Cohort Default Rates; provisions to ensure that students are aware of lower-cost federal student aid options before turning to more expensive private loans and a means to help students avoid potentially compromising their federal aid eligibility by inadvertently relying on private student loans or borrowing excess amounts of private student loans; and includes studies. (20 minutes)

- 2. McKeon (CA):** This amendment requires the National Research Council to conduct a study of the regulations on institutions of higher education. (10 minutes)
- 3. Kildee (MI):** The amendment authorizes discretion currently exercised by the Secretary of Education to reserve for competitive grants to Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities for construction, maintenance, or renovation of campus facilities a percentage of funds appropriated for Tribal Colleges and Universities under Title III of the Higher Education Act. (10 minutes)
- 4. Petri (WI):** The amendment would require the existing Education-Treasury Study Group to evaluate the feasibility of an alternative market-based reform to the Federal Family Education Loan Program. The recommended alternative should reduce federal costs to taxpayers and use savings to increase need-based grant aid to low-income student. (10 minutes)
- 5. Petri (WI):** The amendment would extend the new audit and reporting provisions applied only to the Direct Loan program to the Federal Family Education Loan Program. (10 minutes)
- 6. Castle (DE):** An amendment to require the Quality Efficiency Task Forces to develop annual benchmarks for the top 5 percent of institutions in each institution category that have the largest increase in their tuition and fees over the most recent three year period in which data is available. The amendment also requires those institutions not meeting the benchmarks to provide the Secretary of Education a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution did not meet such benchmarks. (10 minutes)
- 7. Davis, Danny (IL):** An amendment to restore protections to private student loan borrowers similar to those afforded other unsecured debtors by allowing the discharge of private student loans via bankruptcy. (10 minutes)
- 8. Davis, Susan (CA):** This amendment will prevent interest from accruing for active duty service members and qualifying National Guard members for the duration of their activation up to 60 months when serving in a combat zone. (10 minutes)
- 9. Sestak (PA):** This amendment includes physical therapists as an occupation defined as an area of national need to qualify for student loan forgiveness under Sec. 428K of the Higher Education Act. (10 minutes)
- 10. Sestak (PA):** This legislation amends the articulation agreement strategies that may be employed by states and institutions of higher education to include management systems regarding course equivalency, transfer of credit, and articulation.. (10 minutes)
- 11. Yarmuth (KY):** Provides competitive Teach to Reach grants to eligible partnerships to provide general education teacher candidates with the

knowledge and skills to effectively instruct students with disabilities in their classrooms. Eligible partnerships must include an institution of higher education, a special education department within that institution, and a high-need local education agency. (10 minutes)

**12. Hastings (FL)/Sánchez, Linda (CA):** The amendment authorizes a nationwide pilot program through the Department of Education to promote holistic community-centered partnerships aimed at mitigating gang violence and reducing recidivism rates among juvenile ex-offenders previously detained for gang-related offenses. (10 minutes)

**13. Welch (VT):** Amendment would require annual reporting by colleges and universities on how much of their endowment was paid out each year for the purpose of containing college costs. (10 minutes)

**14. Lantos (CA)/Watt (NC):** The amendment makes a technical correction to the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program to clarify Congressional intent that a Masters Degree level institution or program is eligible to be the lead recipient of a grant under the GAANN program. (10 minutes)

**15. Edwards (TX)/Boyda (KS):** Prohibits a state from charging members of the armed forces who are on active duty for more than 30 days and whose domicile or permanent duty station is in such state, and such members' dependents, more than the in-state tuition for attending a public institution of higher education (IHE) in that state. Provides that, even if such members' permanent duty station is subsequently changed to a location outside the state, they or their dependents must continue to be charged no more than the in-state tuition if they remain continuously enrolled at such IHE in the state. (10 minutes)

**16. Johnson, Eddie Bernice (TX)/Young, Don (AK):** This amendment expands Pell Grant eligibility to children who lost a parent or guardian as a result of the conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan. These children will be eligible for the maximum amount of Pell Grant assistance. (10 minutes)

**17. Stupak (MI):** Provides federal student loan relief to borrowers who go into school administration in low-income school districts. Applies to any borrower who has been employed as a full-time school superintendent, principal, or other administrator for five consecutive complete school years in a school district in a low-income area. (10 minutes)

**18. Doggett (TX):** The amendment encourages the prepopulation of FAFSA income and asset information, by taxpayer consent, with tax data provided directly from the IRS to the Department of Education, and allows the Secretary of Education to provide for the use of second preceding tax year information. (10 minutes)

**19. Baird (WA):** This amendment would direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of making student aid available to less than half-time students. The Secretary would then make

recommendations on how to best design a demonstration loan program targeted for less than half-time students. (10 minutes)

**20. Inslee (WA):** Ensures that competitive Sustainability Planning Grants explicitly provide for “greenhouse gas emissions reductions” to reduce the threat of global warming and adds an eligibility requirement to FIPSE to ensure that institutions meet current energy efficiency standards. Additionally, includes a sense of Congress that the Federal Perkins Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans to help needy students finance a degree in higher education, should remain a campus-based aid program and to support increased funds to provide more low-income students with options. (10 minutes)

**21. Crowley (NY):** The amendment would allow community college students to have \$10 forgiven from their student loans for every hour they dedicate to mentoring an at-risk child. (10 minutes)

**22. Cooper (TN):** Increases the authorization level, from \$300 million to \$500 million, for the 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Increases the authorization level, from \$100 million to \$125 million, for the 18 Historically Black Graduate Institutions. (10 minutes)

**23. Ryan, Tim (OH)/Altmire (PA):** Amendment creates a pilot competitive grant program (available to no more than 10 colleges) to assist institutions of higher education in setting up college textbook rental programs. (10 minutes)

**24. Van Hollen (MD)/Castle (DE):** This amendment authorizes Teach for America at \$20 million for FY09 and \$25 million for FY10. (10 minutes)

**25. Gillibrand (NY):** Institutions of Higher Education shall adopt a statement of current policy concerning the working relationship of campus security personnel with State and local law enforcement agencies for the investigation of felonies or a report of a missing student. (10 minutes)

**26. Murphy, Patrick (PA)/Myrick (NC):** The amendment would help students and families plan financially for higher education by requiring that colleges provide information about the anticipated cost of a post-secondary degree. Institutions would have the option of offering either a multi-year tuition and fee schedule or a traditional, single-year tuition and fee schedule with a nonbinding, multi-year estimate of a student’s net costs. (10 minutes)

**27. Shuler (NC):** To authorize a competitive grant program through the Department of Education that would allow institutions of higher education or consortia to create longitudinal data systems to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze, disaggregate, and use individual student data. The amendment authorizes programs in no more than five states for a period of three years. (10 minutes)

### **Quote of the Day**

“He has honor if he holds himself to an ideal of conduct though it is inconvenient, unprofitable, or dangerous to do so.” -Walter Lippman

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